

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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Decree to prohibit Panamanian flag vessels from any kind of trade or intercourse with Cuba is to be signed by President Chiari Friday October 12 according to Director of Consular and Shipping Office Ministry of Finance. Decree prohibits all Panamanian flag vessels from loading, discharging, transferring or engaging in any other kind of operation involving articles or merchandise entering or leaving Cuba. Vessels violating decree to suffer immediate and permanent loss of Panamanian registry. Penalty also applies to Panamanian vessels entering Cuba ports or anchoring in waters adjacent thereto. Embassy officer informed President previously suggested extending provisions Panamanian decree 631 which prohibits Panamanian flag traffic with CHICOMS and North Korea to include Cuba, but later agreed to present proposed decree directed specifically against Cuba. Embassy will pouch copies decree when signed.

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